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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

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Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 11
Environment

1. At its 16th meeting, on 18 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 11)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 11 and informed the Committee that there was a high degree of continuity between the proposed biennial programme plan for 2006-2007 and the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with some adjustments. Those adjustments reflect the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. In addition, greater emphasis has been placed on implementation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, and on meeting the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also aims in the biennium 2006-2007 to improve its scientific capacity in order to provide accurate environmental assessments to inform policy

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decisions. The representative also responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for programme 11. The view was expressed that the programme narratives were the result of intensive consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP in Nairobi. The work of UNEP was commended for the contribution UNEP had made in meeting environmental challenges, especially in Africa.

4. The views were expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements of the programme could be improved, that the indicators of achievement should be qualitative as well as quantitative, and that qualitative indicators of achievement should be introduced. The view was also expressed that the indicators of achievement of the programme were neither quantifiable nor measurable.

5. The view was expressed that, without prejudice to the outcome of the negotiation that would soon commence in the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, capacity-building activities by UNEP should be pursued with vigour.

6. Appreciation was expressed for the greater role played by UNEP on the complementarity between the poverty-alleviating objectives of the multilateral environmental agreements and their interlinkages with the internationally agreed development goals and the continuity of the programme.

7. The view was also expressed that the concept of human security referred to in expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 1 was a concept that had not been endorsed by any intergovernmental body. Another view was expressed that environmental catastrophes and environmental preparedness should be included in subprogramme 1.

8. Questions were raised about the meaning of the term "major groups" contained in paragraphs 11.12 and 11.16, and the terms "public and private sector" in expected accomplishment (a) and "local and national authorities" in indicator of achievement (a) of subprogramme 4. Support was expressed for the international community response for non-polluting industries referred to in subprogramme 4. The views were also expressed that there had not been intergovernmental agreement on the Global Compact Initiative, and that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement reflecting technological development should be improved in subprogramme 4.

9. The view was expressed that there should be a reference to the UNEP guidelines on compliance and enforcement in subprogramme 6. The view was also expressed that in order to avoid duplication and efficient use of resources sustainable development and global environmental issues should be well coordinated. The view was expressed that although reference had been made in subprogramme 6 to regional seas programmes and conventions, no mention had been made in subprogramme 6 on regional mountains.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications.**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 11.10

In the second sentence, after the word "subregional", insert the word "environmental".

Subprogramme 1

At the end of expected accomplishment (a) of the Secretariat, replace the words "human security" with the words "survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals".

Subprogramme 4

In the objective of the Organization, after the word "strategies", add the word "technologies";

In expected accomplishment (a), after the word "water", add the word "resources";

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "water", insert the word "resources";

In indicator of achievement (c) (ii), after the word "Conventions", delete the words "in force and".

Subprogramme 5

Paragraph 11.19

In subparagraph (a), after the word "regional", add the word "interregional".

Subprogramme 6

In indicator of achievement (e), after the word "UNEP", delete the word "headquarters".

Paragraph 11.20

In subparagraph (a), the introductory clause should read: "To support the ratification and promote the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, ...".

At the end of subparagraph (a), add the words "and taking into account the UNEP guidelines on compliance with and enforcements of multilateral environmental agreements".

Paragraph 11.20 (e)

Replace the words "conventions and action plans" with the words "conventions, action plans, regional mountain agreements".

Subprogramme 7

In indicator of achievement (b), delete the word "voluntary" before the word "initiatives".